

# *Watershed* MANAGEMENT



## Drought Information Center

**February 24, 1999**

The past 24 hours brought relatively clear skies again, with no precipitation in most of the Commonwealth. Some scattered light precipitation, less than 0.05 inch occurred in the southern tier counties west of York County. Overall for the month to date, counties south and east of the Ridge and Valley Section have received about 0.1-0.5 inch surplus precipitation, while those in and northwest of the Section are generally in the 0.5-1.2 inch deficit range.

Stream flows in the Delaware River basin are continuing downward, gradually. The main stem gage at Trenton is down from 10,800 cubic feet per second (cfs) yesterday to 9140 cfs this morning. The Lackawaxen River at Hawley is holding about even at 302 cfs, compared to 305 yesterday. The Lehigh River at Bethlehem is down from 2120 to 1930 cfs, and the Schuylkill River at Philadelphia is at 2250 cfs, equal to yesterday's flow. Brandywine Creek at Chadds Ford is down from 254 to 219 cfs. Most gages in the basin are recording below-normal flows again today.

Stream flows in the Susquehanna River basin continue to decline as well. The main stem at Harrisburg is down from 30,100 cfs yesterday to 28,600 cfs today. The Lackawanna River at Old Forge declined from 322 to 312 cfs, the West Branch at Lewisburg is down from 9160 to 8550 cfs, and the Juniata River at Newport is down from 2030 to 1940 cfs.

The Conestoga River at Conestoga is up from 416 to 435 cfs, indicative of lower basin tributaries, which are generally holding about even or are slightly increased this morning. Basinwide, flows at the majority of gages are below normal.

In the Ohio River basin, Allegheny River main stem flows have increased below Eldred, with the Natrona gage reading 16,000 cfs this morning, compared to 15,200 yesterday. Flows in the upper Allegheny tributaries are mixed. French Creek at Utica is down from 1440 to 1190 cfs, while the Clarion River at Cooksburg is up from 1280 to 1480, and the Kiskiminetas River at Vandergrift is even at 1460 cfs. Monongahela River watershed flows are mixed, but generally down, with the river at Braddock down from 8510 to 6550 cfs. Beaver watershed flows are mixed as well, with the river at Beaver Falls down from 3120 to 2570 cfs. The Ohio River at Sewickley is down from 26,600 to 21,200 cfs. Basinwide, nearly all gages are recording below-normal flows.

Ground water declined at all daily monitoring sites, except Franklin County.

The three-day forecast indicates the possibility of up to 0.3 inch of precipitation, primarily in the Ohio basin area, with up to 0.1 inch in the western half of the Susquehanna basin and little or no precipitation in the east. The five-day forecast indicates a total of about 0.5-1.0 inch of precipitation

statewide with up to 1.5 inch in the western border counties. The 6-10 day forecast adds another 0.5-1.0 inch statewide except in the southeast where only 0.25-0.5 inch additional is indicated.